<u>WHAT IS CLAIMED IS</u>:

1. A computer-implemented method of generating an information disclosure statement comprising:

 (a) receiving a signal indicating that a user has identified an electronic document that contains reference information to be disclosed to a patent office, the reference information including IDS information; and

 (b) associating the IDS information with an electronic information disclosure statement.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein associating includes storing the IDS information in the electronic information disclosure statement.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein associating includes storing a plurality of pointers in the electronic information disclosure statement, and wherein each pointer corresponds to an electronic document.

4. The method of claim 3 further comprising:

receiving a second signal indicating that a patent application corresponding to the electronic information disclosure statement is being electronically filed in a patent office;

extracting the IDS information from each electronic document corresponding to the plurality of pointers; and

transmitting the IDS information from each electronic document corresponding to the plurality of pointers to the patent office.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising extracting IDS information from the reference information.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the IDS information is extracted from the reference information automatically in response to the signal.

7 The method of claim 1 further comprising providing a prompt to the user for generating the signal.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the prompt comprises a field in a mouse pop-up window.

1   9.   The method of claim 7 wherein the prompt comprises an electronic
2   button.

1   10.   The method of claim 7 wherein the prompt comprises a computer
2   screen icon.

1   11.   The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic document is downloaded
2   from a database coupled to a computer network.

1   12.   The method of claim 1 further comprising saving the electronic
2   information disclosure statement in a database.

1   13.   The method of claim 12 wherein the database is a local database
2   coupled to a local computer network.

1   14.   The method of claim 12 wherein the database is a remote database
2   coupled to the internet.

1   15.   The method of claim 1 further comprising providing access to the
2   electronic information disclosure statement to multiple users over a network.

1   16.   The method of claim 15 further comprising prompting the user for an
2   access code when the user requests access to the electronic information disclosure statement,
3   wherein when the correct code is provided by the user, the user may access the electronic
4   information disclosure statement, and when the correct code is not provided by the user, the
5   user may not access the electronic information disclosure statement.

1   17.   The method of claim 1 further comprising providing the user with
2   instructions on when an electronic document is to be disclosed to a patent office.

1   18.   The method of claim 1 further comprising electronically transmitting
2   the electronic information disclosure statement to a patent office.

1   19.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2   receiving a second signal indicating that a patent application corresponding to
3   the electronic information disclosure statement is being electronically filed in a patent office;
4   and

5   electronically transmitting the electronic information disclosure statement to

6   the patent office contemporaneously with the patent application.

1   20.   The method of claim 1 further comprising automatically generating a

2   letter to third party in a foreign country when the electronic information disclosure statement

3   is filed in a patent office, the letter including a portion of the IDS information in the

4   electronic information disclosure statement.

1   21.   The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic document is an

2   electronic version of a United States Patent.

1   22.   The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic document is an

2   electronic version of a foreign patent document.

1   23.   The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic document is an

2   electronic version of a publication.

1   24.   A computer system comprising:

2   (a) a computer processor;

3   (b) a computer-readable memory, coupled to said computer processor, said

4   computer-readable memory including computer instructions to:

5   (i)   receive a signal indicating that a user has identified an electronic

6   document that contains reference information to be disclosed to a

7   patent office, the reference information including IDS information;

8   and

9   (ii)   associate the IDS information with an electronic information

10   disclosure statement.

1   25.   The computer system of claim 24 wherein the computer instruction to

2   associate includes instructions to store the IDS information in the electronic information

3   disclosure statement.

1   26.   The computer system of claim 24 wherein the computer instruction to

2   associate includes instructions to store a plurality of pointers in the electronic information

3   disclosure statement, and wherein each pointer corresponds to an electronic document.

1   27.   The computer system of claim 24 wherein said computer-readable
2 memory further includes computer instructions to extract the IDS information from the
3 reference information.

1   28.   The computer system of claim 27 wherein the IDS information is
2 extracted automatically with one mouse-click.

1   29.   The computer system of claim 27 wherein the IDS information is
2 extracted automatically by parsing the reference information.

1   30.   The computer system of claim 27 wherein the IDS information is
2 extracted using a pop-up menu system.

1   31.   The computer system of claim 24 wherein said computer-readable
2 memory further includes computer instructions to provide a prompt to the user for generating
3 the signal.

1   32.   The computer system of claim 24 wherein said computer-readable
2 memory further includes computer instructions to save the electronic information disclosure
3 statement in a database.

1   33.   The computer system of claim 24 wherein said computer-readable
2 memory further includes computer instructions to provide access to the electronic
3 information disclosure statement to multiple users over a network.